

# Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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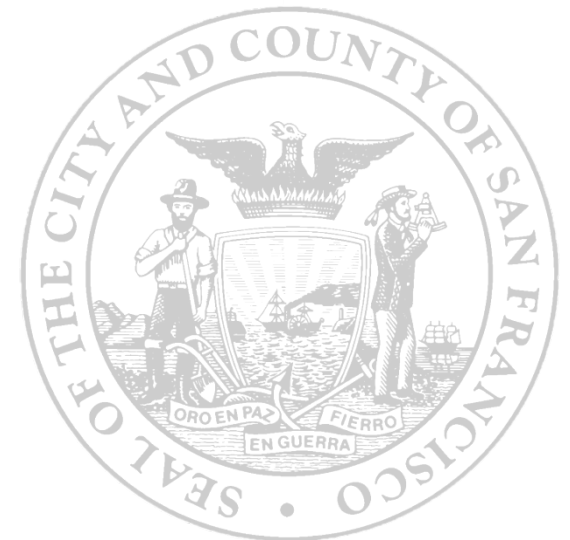
**Naomi Kelly - City Administrator**

**Ken Bukowski – Deputy City Administrator**

**Board of Supervisors**

**Government Audit and Oversight Committee**

**October 3, 2019**



# Department Overview

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The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) provides forensic science services to the public and agencies of the City and County of San Francisco. They investigate sudden, unexpected, and violent deaths. The OCME's work also provides critical information to help track community health.

Staff strive to work with professionalism and compassion as they interact with families at one of the most difficult times in their lives.

OCME is required by law to determine the cause and manner of death for cases under its legal jurisdiction such as:

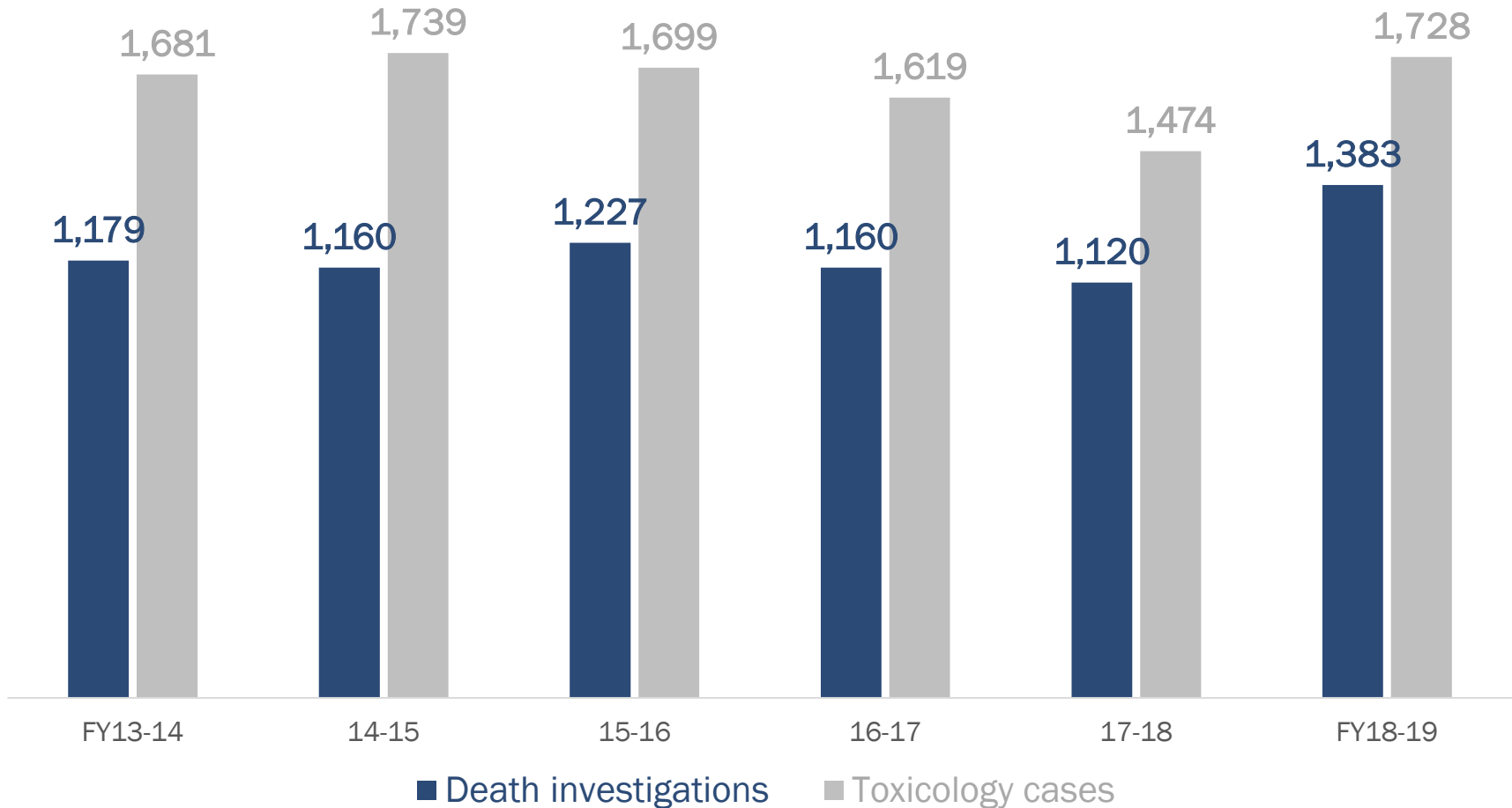
- Suspected homicides or suicides
- Deaths following an accident or injury
- Deaths that may have occurred due to a criminal act
- Deaths of unidentified or incarcerated persons

# Organization structure

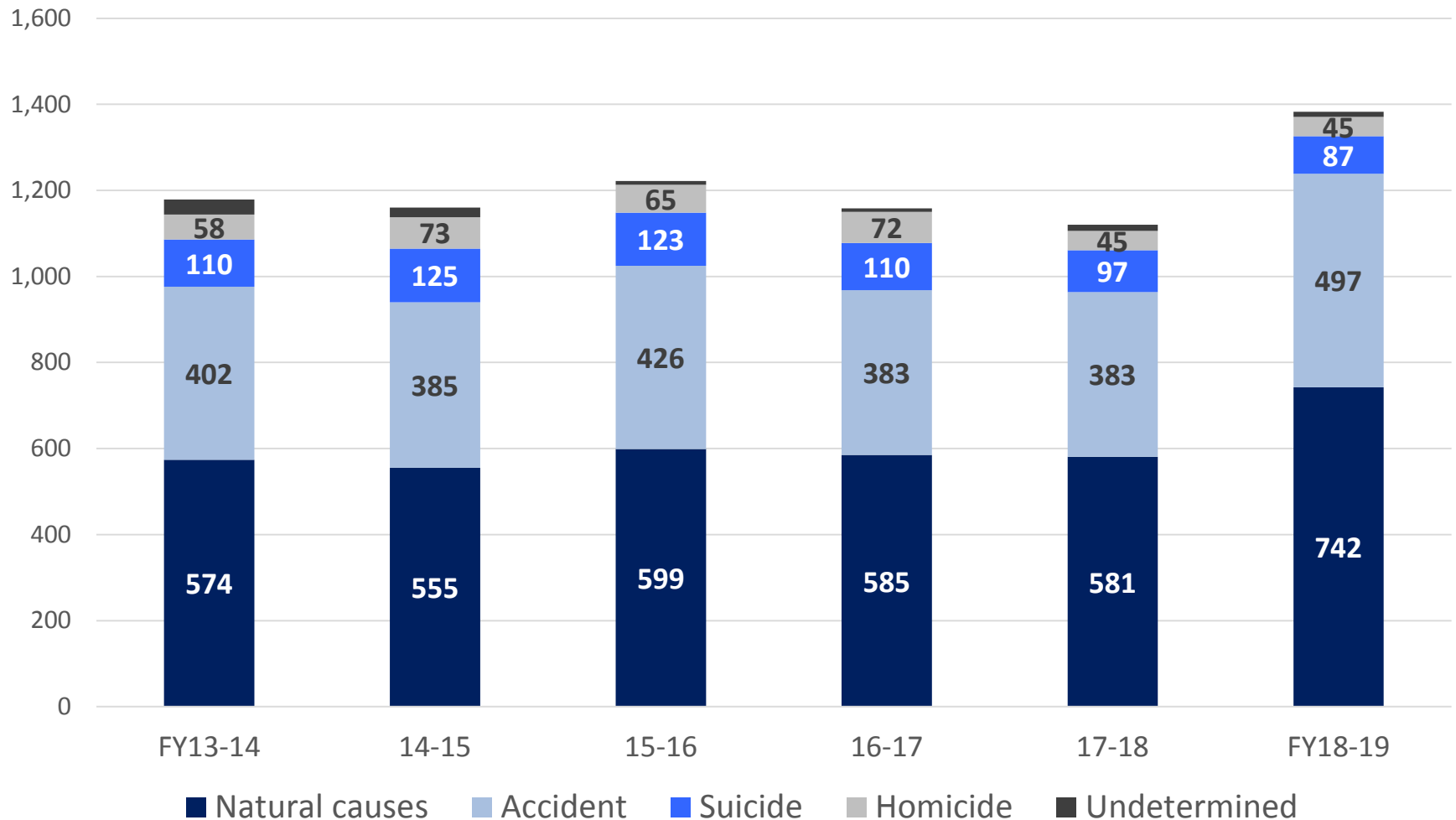
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- FY19-20 Budget: \$11M
- Positions: 36 FTE
- Divisions
  - **INVESTIGATIONS** (18.5 FTE): Scene investigations, family notification, body retrieval and release, and property
  - **MEDICAL DIVISION** (5 FTE): Post-mortem examinations, determinations and reports
  - **FORENSIC LABORATORY** (9 FTE): Toxicology testing and analysis
  - **ADMINISTRATION** (4 FTE): Report and data management, financial management, procurement, human resources and clerical

# Annual Report – OCME Cases FY2013-2019



# Annual Report – OCME Cases Manner of Death



# Collaborative Work with Other Agencies

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- **Department of Public Health:** Regular information sharing, particularly drug-related fatalities
- **Quarterly Interdepartmental Meetings**
  - Homeless Death Review
  - Elder Death Review
  - Child Death Review
  - Domestic Violence Death Review
- **Daily notification** to agencies in deaths involving children, elderly, homeless or individuals on public assistance, fire-related deaths, and pedestrian/vehicle related fatalities
- **Consultative work** with state, national and international researchers and forensic colleagues

# Accomplishments

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- Relocated to a new, state of the art facility and forensic lab at 1 Newhall
- Renewed American Board of Forensic Toxicologists (ABFT) Accreditation for the Forensic Lab
- Implemented new case management system, with new laboratory information management systems (LIMS) under development
- Improved protocols for sexual assault investigations
- Partnered with other city departments to respond to increasing deaths in SROs

# FY20 Goals

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- Recruit new Chief Medical Examiner
- Renew NAME Accreditation for the OCME
- Launch new laboratory information management software, including instrument integration
- Add services and information available to the public via OCME website
- Improve communication with law enforcement agencies
- Continue to work on protocols for sexual assault investigations
- Improve communication and services with family members